

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

May 19, 2006

**FORMER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF
FAMILY COMPANY OF AMERICA SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS
INCARCERATION FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois announced today that on May 19, 2006, **CHARLES KEVIN LEHNBEUTER**, age 51, of St. Louis, Missouri, was sentenced to six (6) months imprisonment as a result of his convictions for filing false tax returns for the taxable years 1998, and 1999. Following his release from prison, he will serve a term of supervised release of one year and is required to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service by filing amended returns and in paying all delinquent taxes, penalties and interest.

According to facts stipulated to at the plea hearing, **CHARLES KEVIN LEHNBEUTER** was the Chief Financial Officer of Family Company of America from March 1996 through January 1999. Family Company of America was a company that was owned by James Gibson that was engaged in the operation of grocery stores under the National name and as Gibson Markets in the St. Louis, Missouri area. James Gibson is serving a 40 year sentence for his convictions for fraud, conspiracy and money laundering as a result of using personal injury victim trust money, in part, to fund the purchase and operation of the grocery stores. As part of his compensation from Family Company of America, **LEHNBEUTER** received a forgivable loan in the amount of \$135,000.00, intended to be forgiven over a five-year period. Due to **LEHNBEUTER's** dismissal during January 1999, the loan was forgiven by Family Company of America. **LEHNBEUTER** failed to report this taxable income on his U.S. tax returns.

The successful prosecution is a result of an investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation. The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.

If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with the tax laws, you may report this activity by contacting the local office of the Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigations or by completing I.R.S. Form 3949-A. You may fill out Form 3949-A online, print it and mail it to:

Internal Revenue Service Fresno, CA 93888

If you do not wish to use Form 3949-A, you may send a letter to the address above. Please include the following information, if available:

- *Name and address of the person you are reporting
- *The taxpayer identification number (social security number for an individual or employer identification number for a business)
- *A brief description of the alleged violation, including how you became aware of or obtained the information
- *The years involved
- *The estimated dollar amount of any unreported income
- *Your name, address and daytime telephone number

Although you are not required to identify yourself, it is helpful to do so. Your identity can be kept confidential. *You may also be entitled to a reward.*